

ABSTRACT

(R. Andrews, 7-77)

Y.M.C.A. Building

Cornerstone 1920

147-149 North Potomac Street

Hagerstown

Washington County, Maryland

The Neo-Georgian influenced brick building in which the Hagerstown YMCA is located was erected in 1920 for the "Y" organization. Four stories in height, the structure rests on a high foundation and has a flat roof and huge proportions. The height and proportions of the building are emphasized by its location on the crest of a hill which drops sharply to the east and west. The building was designed by Fred J. Mack (1878-1957), a Hagerstown architect who donated the plans.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-HAG-53
MAGI #2206325701

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Y.M.C.A. Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

147-149 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
— STRUCTURE
— SITE
— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC
X PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS
— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED
— UNOCCUPIED
— WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
X YES: RESTRICTED
— YES: UNRESTRICTED
— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE — MUSEUM
— COMMERCIAL — PARK
X EDUCATIONAL — PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS
— GOVERNMENT — SCIENTIFIC
— INDUSTRIAL — TRANSPORTATION
— MILITARY — OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Young Men's Christian Association
of Hagerstown, Maryland, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

149 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-NAG-53

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__ DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X __ ORIGINAL SITE
__ GOOD	__ RUINS	__ ALTERED	__ MOVED
__ FAIR	__ UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Known as 147-149 North Potomac Street, the YMCA Building stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Potomac and Church Streets, two blocks north of Public Square in Hagerstown.

Erected in 1920, the building is a huge four story flat-roofed brick structure which rests on a high foundation and has Neo-Georgian decorative detailing. It abuts the sidewalks with a narrow walkway along the south side and is set back a few feet from the general building line in this area of North Potomac Street. The principal exterior elevations (north and east) have a large molded masonry water table, belt courses between the first and second stories and the third and fourth stories (the upper band is narrow and plain and the lower one is wide and stepped), and are crowned by a heavy modillioned cornice with dentils and surmounted by a closed balustrade. Plain brick later additions are attached to the rear or west elevation and extend southward behind the neighboring structures.

The front or facade elevation (east) is symmetrically arranged in three groups of three bays, the center section recessed slightly with the two outer groups forming flanking pavilions. The centered entranceway has a round arch and a large columned portico. The end pavilions have centered Palladian type windows with metal balustrades bearing the insignia of the YMCA. The central block has three two story Palladian type windows stretching between the second and third stories. A masonry cornerstone sits in the northeast corner resting on the water table and also bears the "Y"'s insignia and the date 1920.

The principal windows have double-hung, wooden sashes with six-over-six lights, narrow frames, and brick flat arches. All of the flat arches have masonry keystones. The first floor pavilion facade arches and those of the three bays along Church Street also have end masonry pieces. These seven windows also have three light transoms. The single windows flanking the facade portico are surrounded with raised header banding and have a large decorative panel with a swag above but separated from it raising the height of the window area to correspond with that of the pavilion windows.

The facade portico has two Doric columns supporting a plain architrave below a flat roof. Reached by a set of masonry steps with brick supports, the portico is crowned with a metal balustrade bearing the insignia of the organization. The letters "YMCA" are inscribed in the architrave above the steps.

The north elevation along Church Street has five Palladian type windows on the first floor in the fourth through eighth bays west of the facade or east elevation.

The closed roof balustrade along the north and east sides have plain painted recessed panels in line with the fenestration arrangement of the low levels. The bricks of these exterior walls are laid in Flemish bond.

CONTINUED UNDER #8. SIGNIFICANCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-HAG-53

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES cornerstone 1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fred J. Mack, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neo-Georgian influenced brick building in which the Hagerstown YMCA is located was erected in 1920 for the "Y" organization. Four stories in height, the structure rests on a high foundation and has a flat roof and huge proportions. The height and proportions of the building are emphasized by its location on the crest of a hill which drops sharply to the east and west.

The building was designed by Fred J. Mack (1878-1957), a Hagerstown architect who donated the plans. A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Mack formed a partnership with Charles E. Kountz in Hagerstown in 1907. The firm of Mack and Kountz was in existence for only a few years and was responsible for the 1915 renovations for the Arcade Building at 32-48 West Washington Street and the design of the residence at 900 The Terrace (1909). Mack was associated at one time with Bruce Price, the noted late nineteenth century architect.

In addition to his Hagerstown buildings, a number of other examples of Mack's work are known. Included are buildings at the former Stohr College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and buildings at Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. At the age of 24, he was responsible for the design of the Chalfonte Hotel in Atlantic City. At this time, Mack was working in the Philadelphia office of the noted architect Addison Hutton.

Standing on Lot No. 39 as delineated on the original plat of Hagerstown, the building is a sizable element of the streetscape. The visual bulk of the building, however, is tempered by three large church structures located one block each way north and south. The impact of its size is also encumbered by the deep set back along Potomac Street. A part of the area for more than fifty years, the structure does blend with the neighboring buildings through its fenestration lines and materials.

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The principal rooms and lobby of the interior are heavily Neo-Georgian in decoration.

The building appears to be structurally sound. The principal exterior elevations show no signs of major alteration.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Biographical Files. American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

The property measures approximately 85' x 240'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

July 18, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 731-3200

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

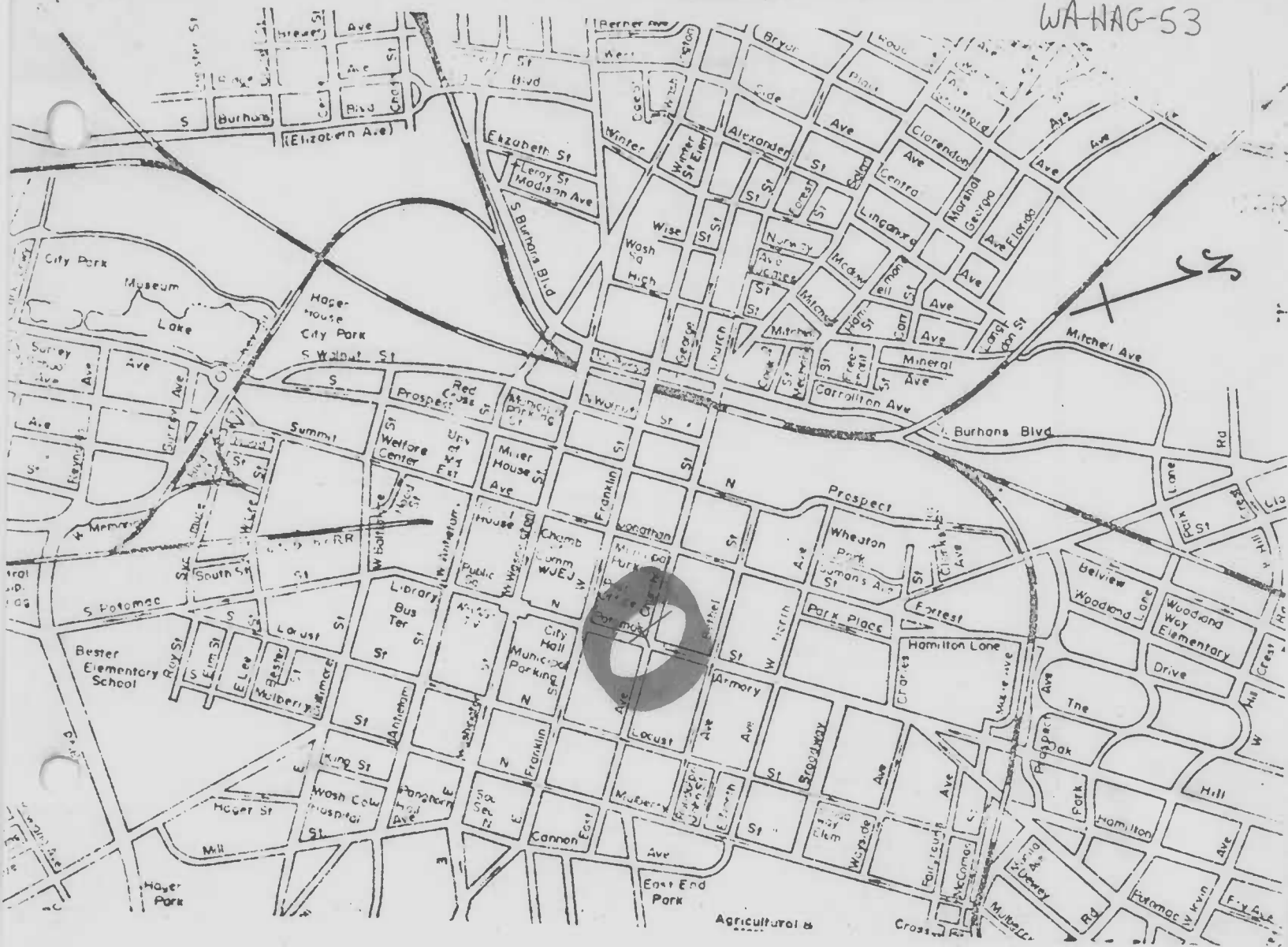
Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

WA-HAG-53



SITE: Y.M.C.A. Building
147-149 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
City Engineering Dept.
July, 1970
scale 1"=1200'



YMCA Building
147-149 North Potomac St.
Hagerstown
Washington Co, Md.
NE view
October, 1975

35 mm wide angle lens

RONALD L. ANDREWS